

BARRINGTON, IL – As part the annual “Make a Difference Day” celebration, on Saturday, U.S. Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-8) held a news conference to announce the legislation she introduced last week to increase the number of children over the age of nine who are adopted into stable homes. The ADOPT Act will provide families who adopt children nine years of age or older with an additional tax credit of \$2,000 per year from the first year of adoption until the child’s 18th birthday.

There are currently nearly 60,000 children in the United States over the age of nine awaiting adoption. According to the U.S. Administration for Children and Families, the majority of these children will never be adopted. Without adoptive families, such children wait for a decade in myriad group or foster homes where they are shuttled between schools and geographic areas. Evidence suggests that such an upbringing decreases the chances of adulthood success and leaves children more likely to engage in criminal behavior than those who are adopted. Once a child waiting for adoption reaches the age of nine, the probability that the child will wait indefinitely for an adoptive family exceeds the probability that they will be adopted. In fact, of all the children adopted, less than a third of those children are over the age of nine.

An adoptee herself, Bean is a member of the Congressional Adoption Caucus, a bipartisan group of U.S. House Members committed to advocating and streamlining adoption.

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